

Against All Odds

Heroes of Faith – Part 4 (Judges 7:1-24)

Life Church St. Louis – June 3, 2012

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Ephesians 6:11 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (NIV) But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-- and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

Judges 6:1 (NIV) Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites.

Judges 6:6 (NIV) Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

1. God is looking for _____ heroes

Judges 6:12 (NIV) When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

Judges 7:2 (NIV) The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her,

A. Heroes who are not _____

Judges 7:3 (NIV) announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

B. Heroes who are _____

Judges 7:5 (NIV) So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink."

2. God will build your _____

A. _____ to God's voice

Judges 7:9-11a (NIV) During that night the LORD said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah and listen to what they are saying.

B. _____ in God's power

Judges 7:15 (NIV) When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands."

3. _____ against all odds

A. Let your _____ be heard

Judges 7:18 (NIV) When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'"

B. Let your _____ shine

1. Judges 7:20 (NIV) The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

Against All Odds – Study Guide

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Intro. In what ways is life a battle?

How are believers engaged in spiritual warfare whether they recognize it or not (Ephesians 6:11)?

Why does God put believers into against all odds situations (Judges 6:1-6, 1 Corinthians 1:27-29)?

1. Why did the Lord call Gideon a mighty warrior (Judges 6:12)?

How did the Lord prepare Gideon for the coming conflict (Judges 6:13-40)?

What was the Lord's purpose in reducing Gideon's army (Judges 7:2)?

Why are the fearful not fit for the Lord's army (Judges 7:3, Revelation 21:8)?

In what ways are you and your situation similar to Gideon and his situation?

2. What do you think Gideon was struggling with before the attack (Judges 7:9-11)?

How did the Lord speak to Gideon to encourage him (Judges 7:12-15)? Why do you think God used this method?

Why do we need others in the church family to encourage us?

3. What was unusual about God's military strategy for Gideon (Judges 7:16-21)?

What do you believe were the factors in Gideon's success (Judges 7:22)?

How does God want you to let your voice be heard and your light shine forth (Isaiah 62:1, Matthew 5:14-16)?